AEROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

[Aerological Division, D. M. LITTLE in charge]

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Mean free-air temperatures and relative humidities for September, as determined from airplane weather observations, are given in table 1. The "departures from normal" given in the table are based on "normals" derived from the number of observations indicated in the note at the foot of the table, where the number of years over which the observations were taken are given by the figures in parentheses. In general, the numbers of observations available for computing "normals" for the higher levels are less than those available for the lowest levels (represented by the data given in the footnote). To compensate for this discrepancy, the "normals" are computed by the method of differences.

The mean temperatures for the month at the surface were slightly above normal over most of the country with the exception of northern and coastal New England, and New Mexico, western Texas, and parts of Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, Washington, and Oregon, where they were slightly below normal. The largest positive departures at the surface were generally to be found in the Mississippi Valley, especially in the south-central part of the country, where departures from $+2^{\circ}$ to $+3^{\circ}$ C

were the rule. (See chart I.)

The departures from mean free-air temperatures for the month indicate that this above-normal thermal condition persisted markedly up to at least 5 km above sea level over a considerable area, particularly in the central Mississippi Valley region. On the other hand, Fargo, N. Dak., in the extreme north-central part of the country, had significant (>1° C.) positive departures of temperature from normal only up to the 2.5 km level, above which the monthly means were very near normal but still positive at least up to 5 km; whereas Billings, Mont., to the west, had positive departures of nearly 1° C. up to 5 km. Mitchel Field (L. I.), N. Y., and Lakehurst, N. J., on the east coast, had only insignificant departures from normal up to 1 km, but had positive departures of slightly more than 1° C., above that level at least up to 4 or 5 km. San Diego, Calif., had departures between +1° and +2° C. at 1 and 1.5 km, but insignificant departures at the remaining levels for which data are available.

The departures from "normal" of relative humidities near the surface were largely of negative sign in the central part of the country (maximum -7 percent at Oklahoma City), whereas the departures along the coastal regions were largely of positive sign (maximum +8 percent at Norfolk, Va., and Washington, D. C.). The data for Washington, D. C., show a remarkably large average fall in humidity from the surface to 500 m, viz, 87 percent (+8 percent departure), to 59 percent (-9 per-

cent departure).

The departures from "normal" of the mean free-air relative humidities for the month indicate that, except near the surface, the region which had above-normal temperatures in the central part of the country likewise had above-normal relative humidities with departures ranging from +4 percent to as high as +14 percent. The greatest positive departures were to be found in the extreme south-central portion of the country, especially in the layer from about 2.5 to 5 km above sea level, as exemplified by the data for Oklahoma City, Okla., and Kelly Field (San Antonio), Tex. (+14 and +9 percent, respectively, at 5 km). By comparing the mean monthly

relative humidities for El Paso, Tex., with those for neighboring stations, one is led to infer that the values for that place in the stratum from about 2 to 5 km were appreciably above normal (e.g., at 3 km we have El Paso, 70 percent; San Diego, 31 percent; Kelly Field, 61 percent; Salt Lake City, 40 percent; Cheyenne, 47 percent; Oklahoma City, 62 percent). (This inference is consistent with the above-normal precipitation which occurred in Texas and New Mexico in September.) In view of the distribution of positive departures, it may be stated that a "ridge" of relatively high humidity, extending in a southwest-northeast direction from about western Texas or New Mexico to about central Ohio, existed on the average during the month in the stratum from 2 to 5 km above sea level. In contrast to this "ridge", there is evidence that two "troughs" of relatively low humidity likewise existed on the average, running in approximately the same direction, one from the California coast to the Dakotas, and the other from the New England coast to about northern Alabama. These were most pronounced in the strata from 1 to 3 or more km above sea level, and 4 to 5 km, respectively. However, the negative departures were not on the whole as great in absolute value as the positive departures referred to above (e. g., at 2 km, Fargo, -5 percent; Cheyenne, -3 percent; and at 5 km, Lakehurst, -9 percent; Washington, -9 percent; Murfreesboro, -6 percent). The data for 5 km at Omaha, Nebr., and Selfridge Field (Mount Clemens, near Detroit), Mich., indicate that humidities were relatively low in general by small amounts over a good portion of the northeast sector of the country. At San Diego, on the southwest coast, the above-normal humidities in the surface layer (+5 percent) gave way to subnormal humidities up to approximately 2.5 km (maximum departure -8 percent at 1.5 km), above which super-normal humidities again appeared on the average (maximum departure +5 percent at 5 km). At Oakland, the relative humidities for the month fell off rapidly with elevation in the first kilometer from 82 to 33 percent, and then fell more slowly, until at 5 km the mean value was but 19 percent as compared with 30 percent for San Diego, 36 percent for Seattle, 48 percent for Spokane, and 43 percent for Salt Lake City. In the north-central part of the country, Fargo exhibited relative humidities which were 2 to 5 percent below normal in the layer from the surface to 3 km, but 2 to 4 percent above normal in the layer from about 4 to 5 km. The mean relative humidities for Sault Ste. Marie during September were somewhat outstanding in the lower 3 km by appearing relatively high as compared with nearby stations.

The free-air resultant winds based on pilot balloon observations made during the month of September are given in table 2. In general, the directions of the resultant winds for the month did not depart greatly from normal except in a relatively few instances. In particular, stations along the Pacific coast exhibited the largest departures in this respect. At Seattle, for the level 500 m, the monthly resultant was 360°, 2.4 m. p. s., and the normal 236°, 0.7 m. p. s. For the 1 and 1.5 km levels, the orientations of the monthly resultants were 60° and 27°, respectively, clockwise with respect to the normal, hence more northerly. At Medford, the following contrasts existed between monthly resultants and normals (in parentheses), respectively: 2 km, 60°, 1.2 m. p. s. (151°, 0.3 m. p. s.); 3 km, 328°, 1.7 m. p. s. (254°, 2.9 m. p. s.); 4 km, 319°, 2.4 m. p. s. (276°, 3.7 m. p. s.). At Oakland, in the lowest 500 m, the monthly resultant is oriented about 20° clockwise of the normal, while from 2 to 3 km, it is oriented approximately 20° to 40° counterclockwise of the normal. San Diego and Atlanta, Ga., likewise show differences in resultant direction from normal but inasmuch as the resultant velocities were relatively small, the differences are not very significant.

The resultant velocities were generally slightly greater than normal in the southern Mississippi Valley (maximum departure at Oklahoma City, 1 km, resultant 208°, 13.7 m. p. s., normal 209°, 8.9 m. p. s.) and largely lower than normal by slight amounts at practically all levels in an east-west strip through the center of the country. In the Northern States, the resultant velocities were generally somewhat greater than normal (maximum departure Sault Ste. Marie, at 3 km, resultant 303°, 14.6 m. p. p. s.; normal 285°, 9.3 m. p. s.) except in New England where they were generally less than normal by small amounts

At the 2.5 and 3 km levels, the monthly resultants indicated a small anticyclonic circulation over the extreme southern Mississippi Valley. The greater than normal resultant velocity toward the west side of the valley brought about somewhat greater than normal transport of moisture-laden air northward up the valley from the Gulf and then eastward. On the other hand, the trajectory of some of the moist air was from the Gulf over

Mexico and Texas to New Mexico and even Arizona whence it was deflected northward and eastward. To the northwest on the contrary, the trajectory of the Polar Pacific and also Polar Continental air not infrequently coming down over the Plateau and North Pacific States was to the southward, southeastward, and then eastward. The consequence of the trajectories of these contrasting air masses was an interaction which took place over a frontal zone extending roughly southwest to northeast, with the line from Arizona to Michigan forming the western limit of the zone. These conditions were conducive of above-normal precipitation over most of the States between that line and one running from east Texas to Ohio (percentages of normal precipitation for September 1936, according to Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin, October 7, 1936; Texas, 250 percent; New Mexico, 173 percent; Oklahoma, 253 percent; Kansas, 172 percent; Missouri, 209 percent; Iowa, 211 percent; Illinois, 183 percent. Precipitation was deficient in the extreme West, Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast).

The subsidence in the Polar Pacific (P_P) , Polar Continental (P_C) , and dry Superior air (S) coming over the Pacific coast and the Northwestern States doubtless was contributory to the low humidities observed in that general region at moderate and high levels, as well as to the subnormal precipitation which occurred there.

The frequent invasions of Polar Continental and modified Polar Pacific air masses over the northeastern sector of the country was the basic cause for the deficient precipitation in that area.

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Table 1.—Mean free-air temperatures and relative humidities obtained by airplanes during September 1936

Temperature (° C.)

-		Altitude (meters) m. s. l.																		
a	Surface		500		1,000		1,500		2,000		2,500		3,000		4,000		5,000		Num-	
Stations	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Departure from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	ber of	
Barksdale Field (Shreveport), La. (52 m) Billings, Mont. (1,088 m) Boston, Mass. (5 m) Cheyenne, Wyo. (1,873 m) El Paso, Tex. (1,104 m) El Paso, Tex. (1,104 m) Fargo, N. Dak. (274 m) Kelly Field (San Antonio), Tex. (206 m) Lakehurst, N. J. (39 m) Maxwell Field (Montgomery), Ala. (52 m) Miami, Fla. (4 m) Mitchel Field (Hempstead, L. I.), N. Y. (29 m) Murfreesboro, Tenn. (174 m) Norfolk, Va. (40 m) Oakland, Calif. (2 m) Oakland, Calif. (2 m) Oakland, Calif. (3 m) Salt Lake City, Utah. (1,288 m) Sant Diego, Calif. (10 m) Sant Diego, Calif. (10 m) Seattle, Wash. (10 m) Seattle, Wash. (10 m) Seattle, Wash. (10 m) Selfridge Field (Mount Clemens), Mich. (177 m) Spokane, Wash. (596 m) Washington, D. C. (13 m) Wright Field (Dayton), Ohio (1	23.0 12.3 15.3 19.4 19.3 13.5 22.3 20.6 23.9 21.9 23.9 15.3 20.6 22.7 17.8 23.0 11.6 11.7	+0.7 +1.1 +3.1 +0.8 +1.4 +1.7 -0.0 +2.5 -1.3 +4.1 +2.3 -0.2 -0.4 +3.4 -2.8 +0.5 -1.2	23. 8 14. 4 16. 3 22. 4 17. 1 23. 3 24. 6 15. 7 22. 4 20. 9 23. 3 19. 3 23. 6 17. 9 12. 0 21. 8 11. 9 16. 6	+2.8 +0.3 +1.1 +1.0 -0.1 +1.8 -0.4 +3.9 +2.2 +1.2 +0.6 +2.1 -1.2 +0.3 +0.7	21. 6 12. 9 14. 4 20. 7 15. 1 21. 2 21. 6 13. 7 20. 6 17. 4 21. 9 22. 3 10. 6 20. 5 10. 9 15. 0 14. 4 17. 1	+2.1 +0.3 +1.4 +1.2 -0.2 +1.8 -0.9 +3.0 +0.7 +1.4 +2.3 -0.7 +0.4 -0.4 -0.1	18. 9 14. 7 10. 7 20. 2 12. 3 18. 4 13. 6 18. 0 18. 6 14. 7 19. 1 17. 6 14. 7 19. 1 17. 4 16. 1 20. 7 8. 4 18. 2 9. 1 12. 9 14. 3	+0.9 +2.0 +0.4 +1.4 +0.8 +0.1 +1.7 -1.0 +2.5 +0.5 +0.2 +1.7 +2.5 -0.6	15. 8 12. 3 8. 4 11. 2 18. 1 9. 6 15. 9 11. 7 15. 6 15. 8 10. 5 14. 4 12. 6 15. 8 16. 8 14. 6 14. 8 15. 5 17. 6 6. 0	+0.9 +0.6 +1.6 +0.5 +1.3 +0.7 +0.3 +1.2 -0.6 +1.9 +0.4 +0.3 +0.3 +1.2 -1.1 +0.3	13. 0 8. 9 6. 6 11. 5 15. 0 6. 8 13. 4 9. 7 13. 0 11. 6 10. 4 12. 6 13. 7 11. 7 12. 5 12. 0 14. 7 4. 0 12. 2 4. 6 7. 8 6. 3 9. 5	+0.6 +0.2 +1.3 +0.4 +1.1 +0.7 +0.7 +1.2 -0.2 +1.6 +0.4 +0.7 +0.3 -1.2 -0.3 -0.8	10. 5 5. 6 4. 7 12. 1 3. 2 11. 1 7. 5 10. 2 10. 5 6. 8 8. 9 7. 9 9. 8 10. 7 8. 11. 3 1. 4 9. 3 2. 6 5. 2 3. 4 7. 1	+0.7 +0.7 +0.7 +0.7 +0.7 +1.1 +1.2 -0.1 +1.6 +0.4 +0.9 +0.1 +0.1 -0.2 -0.7	4.6 -0.9 -0.5 1.9 5.1 -2.9 5.1 3.3 4.5 5.1 1.9 3.1 2.3 3.2 4.5 4.1 1.2.3 3.2 4.5 4.1 1.2.5 4.1 1.2.8 -3.8	+0.8 +0.3 +0.4 +0.5 +1.4 +1.0 +1.4 -0.1 +1.8 +0.6 +0.9 +0.2 +2.1 -1.5 -0.1 -0.4 -0.5	-1. 1 -6. 8 -5. 8 -1. 3 -8. 4 -1. 0 -1. 2 -0. 9 -0. 9 -2. 5 -3. 1 -3. 0 -1. 3 -3. 9 -1. 3 -6. 0 -9. 0 -9. 0 -9. 0 -9. 0 -9. 0 -9. 0 -9. 0 -9. 0 -1. 0 -1	+1.1 +0.7 +0.6 +0.8 +1.8 +1.7 -2.0 +0.2 +2.2 +0.8 +1.0 -0.5 -1.7 -0.6 -0.4 +0.2	27 30 26 30 30 28 29 21 29 29 29 29 30 30 30 30 27 30 30 27 30 30 27 30 27 30 27 30 30 27 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	

¹ Army. ² Weather Bureau.

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Table 1.—Mean free-air temperatures and relative humidities obtained by airplanes during September 1936—Continued RELATIVE HUMIDITY (PERCENT)

					KEL	Alive	HOM	IDIII	(1 1510)	OBIN I)										
	Altitude (meters) m. s. l. Surface 500 1.000 1.500 2.000 2.500 3.000 4.000 5.000																			
Stations	Surface		5(00	1,000		1,500		2,000		2,500		3,000		4,000		5,000		Num-	
3,44,04,0	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	Mean	Depar- ture from normal	ber of obser- va- tions	
Barksdale Field (Shreveport), La. Billings, Mont. Boston, Mass. Cheyenne, Wyo. El Paso, Tex. Fargo, N. Dak. Kelly Field (San Antonio), Tex.	86 51 82 61 70 75 94	5 4 4 0	74 72 62 88	-4 +1	72 66 60 77	-2 -2	71 47 64 66 53 71	-3 -2	70 47 62 57 68 48 70	-1 -3 -5 -1	61 50 52 49 72 45 67	+1 -1 -5 +3	55 51 44 47 70 48 61	-1 -2 +2	58 51 40 51 70 51 59	-4 +3 +4 +10	41 50 34 50 65 47 56	-2 +1 +2 +9		
Lakehurst, N. J. Maxwell Field (Montgomery), Ala. Miami, Fla. Mitchel Field (Hempstead, L. I.), N. Y.	87 91 93 89	-2 0 -2	70 71 80	-2 +4 -1	65 69 75	-5 +2	61 71 73	-3 +5	60 62 72	+6	55 56 69 59	0 +6	51 53 65 52	+1 +6 	37 47 58 42	-5 +1 -7	32 41 53	0		
Murfreesboro, Tenn	83 88 82 74 83	-2 -4 +8 	76 66 72 53 70 70	-1 -1 +1 -5 -3	75 64 70 33 65 58	$\begin{array}{c c} +2 \\ -2 \\ +2 \\ \hline +1 \\ +2 \end{array}$	71 67 68 29 66 54	+4 0 +4 +4 +1	69 68 61 27 65 51	+5 +6 0 +6 0	62 55 25 63 49	$+1 \\ +5 \\ -2 \\ +7 \\ 0$	57 50 23 62 49	+4 -2 +9 +1	50 46 22 61 46	+12	34 44 19 59 40	-6 -1 +14 -3		
Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. Pensacola, Fla	90 58 84 88 86 85	+5 +5 -4 +6	79 78 77 63 77	+1 -1 0 +1	78 49 71 60 71	+3 5 0 0	77 42 34 67 59 65	+6 8 +1 +1	71 37 33 61 63 59	+4 -1 +8 +1	63 38 31 57 61 55	+1 -1 +7 +1	59 40 31 64 57 48	+1 0 +7 -1	54 42 33 54 52 40	0 +2 +4 -4	50 43 30 51 46 36	+5 +4 -7		
Selfridge Field (Mount Clemens), Mich Spokane, Wash Washington, D. C. Wright Field (Dayton), Ohio	87 78 87 86	0 +9 +8 -3	69 59 64	-1 -9 -7	62 54 61 65	-2 +3 -4 +1	58 50 64 64	-2 +2 +1 0	56 54 64 65	0 +4 +4 +6	52 57 55 63	+1 +1 +4 0 +10	49 55 48 60	0 +3 -3 +9	45 51 41 51	+1 +2 -7 +4	39 48 28 46	-2 +3 -9 +3		

Observations taken about 4 a. m., 75th meridian time, except along the Pacific coast and Hawaii where they are taken at dawn.

Note.—The departures are based on normals covering the following total number of observations made during the same month in previous years, including the current month (Years of record are given in parentheses following the number of observations): Billings, 88 (3); Cheyenne, 90 (3); Fargo, 87 (3); Kelly Field, 88 (3); Lakehurst, 45 (3); Maxwell Field (38); Mitchel Field, 73 (3); Murfreesboro, 89 (3); Norfolk 13/ (7); Oklahoma City, 86 (3); Omaha, 180 (6); Pensacola, 195 (9); San Diego, 193 (7); Scott Field, 78 (3); Seattle, 61 (7); Selfridge Field, 88 (3); Spokane, 84 (3); Washington 233 (12); Wright Field, 83 (3).

Table 2.—Free-air resultant winds (meters per second) based on pilot-balloon observations made near 5 a. m. (E. S. T.) during September 1936
[Wind from N=360°, E=90°, etc.]

-	[wind from N = 300°, E = 50°, 600.]																									
Altitude (m) m. s. l.	que N.	lbu- rque, Mex. 54 m)	∬ G	Atlanta, Ga. (309 m)		Billings, Mont. (1,088 m)		Boston, Mass. (15 m)		Cheyenne, Wyo. (1,873 m)		Chicago, Ill. (192 m)		Cincin- nati, Ohio (153 m)		Detroit, Mich. (204 m)		Fargo, N. Dak. (274 m)		Houston, Tex. (21 m)		Key West, Fla. (11 m)		Medford, Oreg. (410 m)		frees- Fenn. m)
	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity
Surface	360 121 255 260 242 226	1. 2 0. 9 1. 8 2. 2 2. 5 1. 3	121 132 169 221 196 132 299 296 246	0. 3 1. 7 1. 8 1. 3 0. 3 0. 3 0. 5 2. 8 3. 4	269 274 260 258 256 257	1. 6 2. 7 2. 8 4. 9 7. 1 10. 0 10. 8	313 292 282 286 272	1. 3 4. 4 5. 0 5. 3 8. 0	297 288 271 259 255 261	2. 6 3. 6 4. 2 4. 1 5. 1 5. 5	0 179 194 226 264 263 264 252 257	0.7 3.8 2.8 2.6 3.8 5.1 6.4 7.8	45 213 248 256 248 250 263 286	1, 0 2, 7 5, 9 5, 2 5, 0 5, 0 4, 4 8, 2	312 226 259 265 270 280 273 283 283 282	0.3 1.2 2.3 3.9 5.6 7.0 8.2 8.9 7.0	0 174 207 239 284 287 286 257	1. 2 2. 4 3. 8 6. 1 6. 6 9. 7 6. 3	69 167 169 166 170 170 172 183 180	1. 1 4. 8 5. 7 5. 4 4. 7 4. 3 3. 9 2. 3 2. 2	94 103 109 102 107 103 93 34	1.8 3.9 3.9 2.8 2.4 2.3 2.1 1.4	0 192 220 315 71 60 310 328 319 280	0.8 0.5 0.6 0.8 1.2 0.5 1.7 2.4 4.1	211 226 233 233 249 246	1. 1 5. 6 6. 4 4. 8 3. 2 2. 7 2. 4 3. 7
Altitude (m)	l N	Newark, N. J. (14 m) Oakland, Calif. (8 m)		Oklahoma City, Okla. (402 m)		Omaha, Nebr. (306 m)		Pearl Har- bor, Terri- tory of Ha- waii 1 (68 m)		Pensacola, Fla. ¹ (24 m)		St. L M (170	о.	Salt City, (1,29	Lake Utah 4 m)		Diego, lif. m)	Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. (198 m)		Seattle, Wash. (14 m)		Ws	cane, ash. 3 m)	sh. ton, D.		
m. s. l.`	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity	Direction	Velocity
Surface	323 312 296 294 295 284 290	1. 1 2. 3 3. 4 5. 8 6. 7 7. 8 9. 1	0 325 323 339 320 285 277 210	0. 5 1. 6 2. 7 2. 0 2. 0 3. 1 2. 5	0 174 184 208 221 208 203 195	2. 2 7. 3 13. 7 9. 2 5. 5 4. 8 4. 6	0 156 172 209 227 241 276 288 299 297	1. 1 4. 3 6. 3 5. 1 4. 5 3. 3 5. 6 6. 6 5. 4	55 74 80 77 72 66 82	2. 5 5. 5 6. 0 4. 1 2. 9 1. 1 1. 6	45 117 135 139 132 120 79 331	2. 5 2. 1 1. 8 1. 8 1. 7 1. 1 0. 6 1. 0	0 155 199 231 246 249 258 244 250	1. 2 5. 6 5. 5 4. 3 5. 1 4. 8 4. 9 6. 9	146 156 170 193 230 256 278	3. 3 3. 5 1. 9 2. 2 2. 6 5. 0 3. 9	0 26 289 83 82 144 201 226	0. 4 0. 5 1. 3 0. 8 0. 4 2. 0 1. 0	0 109 177 256 269 277 290 303	0. 9 2. 7 4. 2 5. 9 9. 2 11. 6 14. 6	360 4 326 324 318 301 308 292	0. 3 2. 4 2. 4 2. 3 3. 1 4. 7 5. 4 6. 8 9. 1	234 256 263 271 276 294	1. 3 1. 1 3. 2 3. 3 5. 1 5. 6 8. 7	354 282 272 283 277 290 309	0.6 1.2 1.9 3.5 3.1 3.4 5.4

¹ Navy stations.